

The objections relating to claims 3 (now 30), 7, 8, 10 and 15 have been remedied by the cancellation of claims 16, 18, 19, 20, 25 and 26.

The Examiner's objections to claims 8-15 as being improper multiple dependent claims has been remedied by removal of claim 7 from the list of claims in claims 8 and 10 and the presentation of new claims 31 and 32.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's objections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is urged that all of the present claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

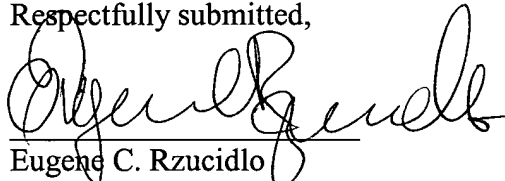
AUTHORIZATION

If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at ecr@gtlaw.com.

No additional fee is believed to be necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

Dated: April 8, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Eugene C. Rzucidlo
Registration No. 31,900
Customer Number: 32361

ATTACHMENT A

6. (Amended) A polynucleotide or salt thereof in which the average chain length is between 0.1 k bases and 1 k bases, characterized in that the proportion of a 2'-5' phosphodiester bond is in the range of about 0.1% to 3% based on the [whole] total number of phosphodiester bonds.

7. (Amended) The polynucleotide or sale thereof according to any one of claims 1, [3] 2 and [14] 6, wherein the polynucleotide is polyinosinic acid or an analogue thereof, polycytidylic acid or an analogue thereof, polyadenylic acid or an analogue thereof, polyuridylic acid or an analogue thereof.

8. (Amended) A polynucleotide or salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1, [3] 2, [14] or 6 [and 15,] which is in form of a double stranded polynucleotide or sale thereof formed from two polynucleotides or salts thereof which are capable of forming a double strand.

10. (Amended) A composition comprising a complex formed from a carrier effective for introducing a medicament into a cell and a polynucleotide or salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1, [3] 2 or 6, [and 15] or a double stranded polynucleotide or salt thereof according to Claim [16] 8 or [17] 9 as an essential ingredient.

30. (Added) The double stranded chain-shortened polynucleotide or salt thereof according to claim 17, wherein the two chain-shortened polynucleotides capable of forming a double strand are selected from the group consisting of polyinosinic acid and polycytidylic acid, polyadenylic acid and polyuridylic acid, polyinosinic acid analogue and polycytidylic acid, polyinosinic acid and polycytidylic acid analogue, polyinosinic acid analogue and polycytidylic acid analogue, polyadenylic acid analogue and polyuridylic acid, polyadenylic acid and polyuridylic acid analogue, and polyadenylic acid analogue and polyuridylic acid analogue.

31. (Added) A polynucleotide or salt thereof according to Claims 7, which is in form of a double stranded polynucleotide or salt thereof formed from two polynucleotides or salts thereof which are capable of forming a double strand.

32. (Added) A composition comprising of a complex formed from a carrier effective for introducing a medicament into a cell and a polynucleotide or salt thereof according to Claims 7 or a double stranded polynucleotide or salt thereof according to Claim 8 or 9 as an essential ingredient.